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A quiet, efficient American

Allen Dulles, dead at 75, politely ridiculed the description accorded him so often by magazine writers of being "America's Master Spy." Director of the Central Intelligence Agency for longer than any other man, he was averse to ballyhoo and inexactness.

He knew the effectiveness of the CIA depended not on star billing but on a network that could not afford even one weak link among its faceless personnel. He knew the real unsung hero, often behind the Iron Curtain, had to be, by the very nature of intelligence work and counter-espionage, the unknown and unheralded hero of the Cold War.

He was one of that breed of public servants, seeking no personal

ends of power, that this nation; like Britain, has produced.

Outside his mastery of the craft of intelligence, perhaps his but-standing quality was his forbearance toward the ignorant know-it-alls whose instant wisdom always told them what went wrong and why when disaster struck, as is unavoidable in this work. Silence may be golden, but the restraints it demands can be almost overwhelming when everyone hears of your mistakes but nobody ever learns of your triumphs except the foe at the receiving end.

The quiet, efficient public servant was an accolade Allen Dulles would appreciate much more than Master Spy.